Museum. Auckland,
New Zealand, March 3, 1879.

Dear Sir.

I trust that you will excuse the liberty which - as a total stranger - I take in addressing you. For some years I have been engaged in investigating the botany of New Zealand, and have made large collections from all parts of the Islands. I am now making use of a portion of my duplicate specimens for exchange with other countries, with the view of establishing the nucleus of a general herbarium in Auckland, and it has occured to me that possibly You might not be indisposed to exchange a series of North American plants for New Zealand species, or, if you were not able yourself to do this, might know of some American botanist who would be glad to make the exchange. I could send any number of Phaenogams and Ferns that might be agreed upon, up to 600 or 700 species, or perhaps more. I would also guarantee that the specimens should be good and characteristic, and accurately named. If you think that you can do anything in the matter, if you would kindly write me a line to that effect, I will at once send a first consignment via San Francisco, and on its receipt You can return me what you consider a fair equivalent in American plants. My agent in San Francisco is Mr Hugh Craig, 307 California St. He would forward my parcel to you, and would also receive any package intended for me.

Trusting to hear from you in reply, I remain,

Yours faithfully

T. F. Cheeseman.

Prof. Asa Gray